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MEDIA RELEASE

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IDOC COMMISSIONER BRUCE LEMMON HANGS UP THE KEYS AFTER 40 YEARS

Indianapolis, IN – (November 13, 2016) - After 40 years of dedicated service with the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC), Commissioner Bruce Lemmon announces his retirement effective November 30, 2016.

A 1975 graduate of Indiana State University, Bruce Lemmon started his career with the IDOC as a recreational leader in 1976 and quickly rose through the ranks holding multiple leadership positions including Superintendent at several facilities, Regional Director, Deputy Commissioner of Re-Entry, Deputy Commissioner of Operations and Deputy Commissioner of Administration before becoming Commissioner, where he has led the agency for the last six years.

Known for creating a culture of caring within the agency, Lemmon demonstrated his commitment to offender rehabilitation and successful re-entry by introducing motherhood and fatherhood parenting programs into each adult facility.

With the knowledge that 80 to 85 percent of offenders enter into prison with a substance abuse disorder leading to their incarceration, Lemmon created C.L.I.F.F. (Clean Living Is Freedom Forever), a substance abuse program for offenders with an addiction to methamphetamines.

Another accomplishment during his tenure was the significant expansion of the P.L.U.S. (Purposeful Living Units Serve) Program, a character and faith-based program that teaches offenders to change their criminal way of thinking while giving back to the community. In the past five years, the PLUS program has donated more than \$100,000 for child abuse prevention programs.

Commissioner Lemmon's compassion was not limited to the offender population. Under his leadership he greatly expanded the number of scholarships made available through the Correctional Professional Assistance Fund of Indiana (CPAFI). This foundation helps IDOC employees who experience financial challenges such as home loss due to residential fires or storm damage, as well as those who have medical needs or scholarship needs.

“Whatever success I’ve been able to achieve during my tenure can be attributed to following one fundamental principle,” said Commissioner Lemmon. “I recruit a team of talented folks, identify the job we need to complete, then I get out of their way and let them do their jobs.”

When asked what he will do with his new found freedom, he smiled and replied, “chase a little white ball along some of the nation’s most pristine fairways.”

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